

the two following species being Dublin Bay, I shall here copy some notes upon them;—their forms have been known to me since 1835.

Halichondria incrustans, Esper. (sp.), Johnst. B. S. p. 122. pl. 12. fig. 3. and pl. 13. fig. 5.

Abundant, adherent to rocks between tide-marks on the Down coast. Dr. Johnston calls it an "unattractive species," in which—but it is a matter of mere taste—I cannot agree. Its reddish orange colour on the dark rocks is to my eye most lively and pleasing, and more particularly so, when other sponges are in its immediate proximity. At Ballyholme, Belfast Bay, within the space of a very few square feet, this species may be seen in small orange patches on the rock; *Hal. panicea* in green masses, and by throwing aside the hanging fronds of *Fucus nodosus* (covered by their parasite *Polysiphonia fastigiata*), *Ptilota plumosa* densely clothing the shaded rock is exposed to view, and on it the *Grantia botryoides* and *G. foliacea* grow plentifully, and the *G. ciliata* is sparingly seen.

Although *H. incrustans* inclines generally to look directly down upon the water, or to grow on the under surface of rocks (see Grant, quoted in Johnst. B. S. p. 124), I find it also attached to their perpendicular sides, and when so, the "fecal orifices" are elevated, but not very much, above the surface.

Grantia coriacea, Mont. (sp.), Johnst. Brit. Sponges, p. 183. pl. 21. fig. 9.

was found on an *Anomia* attached to an oyster dredged at Killough, Downshire, March 1835. W. T.

XLIV.—*The Birds of Calcutta, collected and described by*
CARL J. SUNDEVALL*.

[Continued from p. 309.]

44. *Bucco philippensis*, Briss., L., Lath., Temm. in Pl. Col. livr. 88.—*B. indicus*, Lath. (*B. parvus*, Gm., Lath. est junior, auct. Temm. loc. cit., quod nomen potius ut specificum adhibendum; sed junior mihi ignotus.)

Olivaceo-viridis, subtus flavescens viridi-maculatus; fronte maculae pectoris antici coccineis; gula, macula supra aliaque infra oculos flavissimis. (♂ ♀ adulti, simillimi, Febr. Martii.)

Longit. 6 poll. Ala 83 mill., tarsus 18, cauda 38. Pedes pallide rubri. Orbita nuda, rubra. Iris rubra. Lingua plana, lata, basi ut vulgo sagittata; margine membranacea, apice obtusa; leviter latero-bifida. Remigum 1^a brevissima; 4^a reliquis longior. (Testiculi in medio Febr. tumidi. Ova tumida et oviductus crassitie intestini, initio Martii.)

This handsome little bird was common around Calcutta, and

* Translated from the 'Physiographiska Sällskapets Tidskrift' by H. E. Strickland, M.A.

was said to lay its eggs the beginning of March, but I did not see the nest. A more voracious glutton can hardly be found; the specimens which I killed had not only the stomach but also the throat filled up to the mouth with berries of the two species of *Ficus* (*F. benjamina* and *indica*), which are common in Bengal. Insects were not found in them. The flight and motions were very heavy and inactive. These birds were only seen solitary; they commonly sit upon a branch, and utter almost incessantly their *ho! ho!* (or *tjo!*) with a strong shaking of the whole body at every note. This sound is pronounced very short, not strong, but tolerably pure, like a rather low note on the flute (from the lower *G* to the second *E*). The same individual always utters the same note, but two are seldom heard to make it exactly alike. When therefore two or more birds are sitting near each other, a not unpleasant music arises from the alternation of the notes, as it sounds most like the tone of bells. The note being feeble and clear, it appears to come from a distance, though one may be only ten or twelve fells from the bird. The Bengal name of the bird is *Benebo*. This name has been by the older writers incorrectly applied to *Timalia grisea* (*Baniah-bow* of Albin).

45. *Bucco cyanicollis*, Temm. *loc. cit.*—Capito cyanocollis, Vieill. Trogon asiaticus, Lath. no. 8.

Viridis, non maculatus, facie juguloque cyaneis: capillitio coccineo fascia lata media nigricante; puncto utrinque juguli coccineo. (♂ ♀ adulti, Martio.)

8½ poll. Ala 100–108 millim., tarsus 24, cauda 70. Lingua plana, lanceolata, basi non sagittata! apice leviter fissa, laciniis integerrimis. Iris obscure rubra. Orbita nuda obscure rubra. Rostrum flavescens supra nigricans. Ala parum superat anum, remigibus 1–3 gradatis, 4–6 subæqualibus, reliquis longioribus. Rectrices 10, obtusæ, æquales.

This species also is common near Calcutta, and is called the *borro Benebo* (Great *Benebo*), the former being *tjutto* (or little) *Benebo*. It is heavy and dull like the former, lives solitary in the same manner, and feeds on berries, but seemed to be more temperate, and the berries found in the stomach were always broken asunder. The note may be expressed by *rokuroj! rokuroj!* The middle syllable is uttered a note higher than the other two. Both males and females cry in the same manner, sitting still with outstretched neck. At intervals they were seen to spring aside, or transversely across the branch, with considerable activity, so that at first sight they resemble a Squirrel. They were seen from February to May.

46. *Cuculus ejulans*, n.—Bhrou Cuckoo, Lath. *Gen. Hist.* iii. p. 265. no. 4 (et forte idem ac plures *Cuculi* ex India, ibi e picturis

descripti. Aff. *C. solitario*, Cuv., Le Vaill. Afr. 205,—et *radiato*, Lath. 22.)

Cinereus, pectore sordide fulvescente, ventre cinereo-fasciato; cauda cinerea fasciis 6 angustis, nigris, postice albido marginatis.

♂ adultus Febr., Martio. Magnitudo, structura et ratio partium ut *Cuculi canori*: rostrum, nares, pedesque omnino illius. Differt rectricibus lateralibus minus abbreviatis, et remige 4^a reliquis longiore (in *canoro* 3^a reliquis longior). Longit. 14 poll. Ala 200 millim., tarsus 20, cauda 180. Plumarum rhachides parte occulta paullo tumida, lanato barbata. Color superne immaculatus, vinaceo-cinereus. Gula pallide cinerea. Pectus et latera corporis vinaceo-testacea, posterius pallidiora, fasciis non crebris, transversis, pallide cinereis. Abdomen et crissum albida. Alæ colore dorsi, pennis fuscioribus, intus fasciis triangularibus, abbreviatis albis. Caudæ fasciæ bis arcuatæ; apex latius niger, late testaceo-marginatus. Iris flava. Pedes saturate flavi*.

This species shows much similarity to our Cuckoo, and the mode of life seems also nearly to correspond. When flying or reposing on a tree, as well as when walking on the ground, it altogether resembled that bird, but the note was quite different; it sounds like *parupiu!* *peripiu!* *piripiu!* The third syllable is long, and every word is pronounced about twice, nearly in this manner:—



It thus mounts the scale of notes at every second cry, three or four times, till the note is as high as the bird can raise it, when it makes a short pause and begins anew. Thus it continues for whole hours, especially in the morning and evening, even after it is quite dark. When one is in a house surrounded by trees, as at Serampore, this nocturnal music becomes wearisome, for it is anything but agreeable; it is in the highest degree harsh, grating and incessant. What especially adds to its unpleasantness is that the bird makes all the intervals alike, without attending to the semitones, which to our ears are essential in music. The specimens obtained (two males) were very fat, with tender skins, as in our Cuckoo. They had eaten a great number of caterpillars, but as these were not hairy ones the stomach was not rendered internally villose, as is the case with *C. canorus*

* This species was first described under the name of *Cuculus varius* by Vahl near fifty years ago in a paper on the birds of Tranquebar in the 'Skrivter af Naturhistorie-Selskabet,' published at Copenhagen, vol. iv. part 1. p. 61. *C. fugax*, Horsfield, and *C. Lathamii*, Gray, Ill. Ind. Orn. are later synonyms.—H. E. S.

during summer, when such larvæ abound, the hairs from which become attached to the internal skin of the stomach. I learnt nothing as to its mode of breeding. The Bengalese name is *Sikkrie*, which is also applied to *Falco tinnunculus* and *melanopterus*, so that here people often confound the Hawks and Cuckoos. I saw and heard this species from February to May, but procured no female. The bird is tolerably shy like our Cuckoo.

47. *Cuculus orientalis*, L. et auct. (= ♂); Horsf. Jav. L. Tr. xiii. —Cocou à gros bec, *Le Vaill. Afr.* 214. *C. scolopaceus*, L. et auct. (= ♀). *Eudynamis orientalis*, *Vig. et Horsf. Nov. Holl. L. Tr.* xv. (*C. punctatus*, auct., veris ♂ primo anno.)

Nares oblongæ immarginatæ; tarsi breves, cauda fortius rotundata.—♂ niger. ♀ fusca, albo varia, fasciis caudæ numerosis irregularibus.

Iris sanguinea. Lingua sub-cartilaginea, mediocris, sensim angustata, apice rotundato, integerrimo, striola superne impresso ut rudimentum fissuræ. Rostrum et pedes robustiores, alæ paullo breviores quam in *Cuculis* genuinis. Cutis firma. Plumæ corporis forma vulgari, nec, ut in *Columbis* et *Cuculis* genuinis, scapo tumido.

♂ *adultus* (Febr., Martio) totus pure niger, virescenti nitens, immaculatus. Rostrum pallidum, basi fuscescens. $14\frac{1}{2}$ poll. Ala 181 mill., cauda 180, tarsus 32, digitus medius 28, cum ungue 38.

♂ *jun.* (d. 1 Maii) niger, minus nitens, subtus remigibusque fuliginosus, opacus; remiges tamen ultimæ primariæ et ultimæ cubitales renovatæ, nigræ, nitidæ. Alarum tectrices inferiores et crissum albo undata. Rostrum pallidum flavescens. ♀ (d. 3 Martii ovo subperfecto in oviductu). Supra fusca, æneo-nitens, crebre albomaculata: maculis capitis subtectriceis, longitudinalibus, una in apice singulæ plumæ; dorsi et tectricum parvis, rotundis, 2–3 cujusque plumæ. Subtus alba fusco varia: gula colloque maculis sub-longitudinalibus, et lateribus plumarum fuscis. Pectus, ad pedes usque, fasciis tenuibus, angulatis. Hypochondria et crissum fasciis sub-regularibus. Remiges fuscæ fasciis interruptis fulvo-albidis. Rectrices striis circa 18 oblique transversis et flexuosis, albidis. Long. $14\frac{3}{4}$ poll. Ala 180 millim., tarsus 31; digitus medius 27, cum ungue 37, cauda 180.

This also is a noisy bird which occurs frequently near Calcutta. The males were heard all the time that I remained there, crying almost constantly *torru!* *torru!* and both sexes often uttered a note like that of the Kestrel or Woodpecker, *tjee!* *tjee!* *tjee!* *tjee!* They were not seen to alight on the ground, but remained in bushes or small detached trees, and seemed to enjoy the sunshine. They were not shy like the true Cuckoos. The stomach, which was very thin with a soft muscular coating, was always found full of berries; it was never seen to contain insects (Febr.—Apr.). They lay their eggs in March, for in the above-described female was found one which was nearly full-grown, but without

shell. I could not get to see the nest, but according to Levaillant and Buchanan (in Lath. Gen. Hist.) it is like a crow's nest, in which the bird itself deposits its eggs. This species seems to occur in the whole torrid zone of the old continent, including Ulimaroa. The Bengalese name is *kukuill* or *kokill*, formed from the note like the Latin *Cuculus*. The name *Bought-Sallik*, which the older authors give as Indian, I have not heard.

48. *Cuculus philippensis*?, Vieill.—*C. ægyptius* β , auct. (nec *C. bubutus*, Horsf. Jav.). *Niger alis rufis* (Centropus, Illig.).

Between February and April I several times saw near Calcutta a rather large black bird with red-brown wings, which certainly was one of the so-coloured species of *Cuculidæ*, with a long claw on the hind-toe as in the larks; but it was so shy and wary that I could not succeed in shooting it. It was considerably larger than the foregoing, but less than the Javan *C. bubutus*. Those which I saw were solitary, or two together, and of the same colour as far as I could distinguish. They remained on the ground unobserved among bushes, and always flew up at my approach, after which they glided among the bushes and trees, especially those which grew thickly, till I could no longer perceive whither they had gone. No sound was heard from them. The flight was somewhat noisy like that of poultry. In the stretching-out of the neck, the motions and attitudes of the body, they had also a remarkable resemblance to the *Gallinacæ*. This resemblance is still greater in certain African species with yet shorter wings, and a gray spotted plumage, so that there is little except the arrangement of the toes, two forwards and two backwards, which distinguishes them from the gallinaceous birds. This difference also disappears in the African *Musophagidæ* (e. g. *Schizæris cinerea*, Wagl. = *Phasianus africanus*, Lath.) and the American *Penelopidæ*, which form important links between the Cuckoos and Pheasants. A remarkable similarity is also seen between the Pigeons and the true Cuckoos, to which *C. canorus* belongs. The mode of flight and of walking on the ground, the colours, the tender skin and the structure of the feathers have a great resemblance. The feathers of the body have in both these genera the hidden portion of their shafts considerably thickened, spongy, and furnished with a branched downy web. In the true Cuckoos too the somewhat slender beak has an erect fleshy margin round the nostrils, which is yet more developed in the Pigeons.

49. *Coracias indica*, L. et auct.—*C. bengalensis*, L., &c. *C. nævia* ♂ adult, Wagler, Syst. (*C. nævia* propria ut junior ejusdem speciei loc. cit. describitur, quod in Iside 1829, p. 737. emendatur.)

Rufescens, capite superne ventreque viridibus; capitis lateribus juguloque albido striolatis; rectricibus æqualibus, violaceis, medio

late albido-cyaneis. Alæ cæruleæ et violaceæ. ♂ (d. 19 Martii) ut descriptio Wagleri citata. Long. $12\frac{1}{2}$ poll. Ala 172 millim., tarsus, 25, cauda 120. Iris obscure rufescens.—♀ vix differt. Junior = Cor. nævia ♀ Wagleri.

The Indian Roller is yet more splendid than ours, which it otherwise much resembles; it has also the same rough ugly voice, but the flight seemed to be less quick, somewhat tortuous, and sometimes almost tumbling. The food consists chiefly of grasshoppers, at least I found nothing else in its stomach. It is common in Bengal (Feb.—May), and is there called *Nilkhont*.

50. *Merops viridis*, L. et auct., et ejusd. var. β , δ et ϵ , Lath. (Var. γ = *M. ægyptius*, *Forsk.*, *Licht.*: gula flava). Viridis, macula oblonga per oculos striaque transversa juguli nigris; gula cærulescente; remigibus pogonio interiori fulvis, apice nigris. Rectricibus 2 mediis apice longissimo, tenui (adultæ).

♂ Febr. Color olivaceo-viridis; capite supra, præsertim posteriori cum nucha fulvescente. Iris coccinea. Longit. (præter rectrices 2 medias) $7\frac{1}{4}$ poll. Ala 100 millim. Pes e talo ad apicem unguis 26. Rostrum 26. Rectrices 70 = apices 2 elongati 70. Remiges 1^a spuria; 2 et 3 subæquales, integræ; reliquæ apice cordato-incisæ. Lingua longa, tenuis, integerrima, acuta. Cutis maxime firma (vel duriuscula). Musculi occipitis tenues, fere spatiis perviis distincti. Ventriculus fortius musculosus.

♀ Similis mari, vix minus nitide colorata.

This handsome bird was seen commonly in trees near Calcutta, but I am uncertain whether they occur later than the middle of March. It does not live in flocks, but several are generally seen near together, and I killed two males at the first shot (Feb. 9). In their stomachs they had insects of all orders, and they were continually seen flying out from the trees to catch these, returning back again almost like a *Muscicapa*. The flight was gliding, with the wings motionless and held straight out, forming an isosceles triangle. I never saw this species wheel round in large circles like Swallows, as the European Bee-eater is said to do. No other sound was heard from them but a soft hissing *srurr - - - i - - - !* which was commonly when they flew. The Bengalese name was said to be *Bashbatta*; but through a mistake of their colours they are also named *Benebo*, which name belongs to *Bucco*, and *Massrenga* which belongs to *Alcedo*. In Latham's 'Gen. Hist.' six other names are given for them.

51. *Alcedo ispida*, L. = *A. bengalensis*, Gm., Lath. (ex Edw. tab. 11. fig. inf.)*.

* *Alcedo bengalensis*, var. β . Lath. = Edw. xi. fig. sup., est distincta species. Simillima, vix minor, capitis lateribus cæruleis; = *A. meningting*, Horsf. Jav. L. Tr. xiii. Temm. Pl. Col. 239. 2. Forte = *A. ispida*, Raffl. Sumatra, L. Tr. xiii. ? An etiam Bengalix incola ?

Var. dorso cyaneo, minus virescente tincto quam in individuis europæis.—♂ *Adultus* (Calcutta Martio). Longit. 6 poll. Ala 69 millim.; pes e talo ad apicem unguis 25; rostrum e fronte 38; altit. 7; cauda 35. Rostrum totum nigrum, et pedes tenuiores quam in individuis Europæis collatis. Colores puriores, sed pictura perfecte eadem. Iris obscure fusca. Remigum prima paullo brevior quam 4^a. Alius ♂ (Calcutta Febr.) simillimus sed rostrum basi subtus pallidum. Aliud individuum (Mus. Lund. e. Calcutta) simillimum, etiam mensuris et tenuitate pedum; differt rostri altitudine 8 millim. et maxilla inferiore tota pallida.

As long as I remained in Bengal kingfishers occurred there frequently. Near such water-tanks as were surrounded with small trees or bushes, one or two of these handsome birds were always seen sitting, ready to pounce on small fish, their only food. The Bengalese name is *Massrenga* or *Matjrunga* (from *matj*, fish, and *renga* or *runga*, red, gay or coloured), also *tjutto massrenga* or little kingfisher, to distinguish it from the following species. All the specimens which I have seen from Bengal are distinguished by somewhat brighter or purer colours from the European ones which I have had an opportunity of seeing, two of which were shot here in Skania in 1835 and 1836. This is evidently an effect of the warmer climate, but besides this, the Bengalese ones always have smaller though not shorter feet than the European ones. This may probably arise from the greater warmth, which has more rapidly and completely dried up the soft parts in fresh-stuffed specimens in India than in Europe. The resemblance is too great for one to assert any specific difference.

52. *Alcedo smyrnensis*, L. et auct., et ejusd. var. γ . Lath. (var. β . dist. sp.). Gen. Halcyon, *Swains*.

Castanea, collo antico (ad medium pectus) albo, dorso alis caudaque cæruleis, vitta cubitali nigra. Macroura rostro recto pedibusque sanguineis.

♂ (d. 12 Mart.). Alarum tectrices mediæ nigrae, fasciam obliquam formantes; minimæ castaneæ, maximæ colore dorsi. Scapulares sordide cærulei. Remiges 3–5 subæquales, reliquis longiores; omnes primariæ apice nigrae, pogonio interno albo; cubitales 14, quarum 12 æquales, intus nigrae. Cauda rotundata, longit. trunci, subtus nigra. *Tibia* apice vix nuda. *Lingua* parva, triangularis, apice rotundato, integerrimo. $10\frac{1}{2}$ poll. Ala 118 mill. Pes e talo ad apicem unguis 40. Rostrum e fronte 60, altit. 15, cauda 76. Alius ♂ (mense Apr.) simillimus, præter alam 115 millim., rostrum 55, caudam 80. ♀ similis mari.

This is certainly one of the handsomest of birds, in respect both of the splendour of the colours and their pleasing distribu-

tion. The chestnut-brown body and snow-white throat, together with the splendid blue of the back, wings and tail, form an uncommonly beautiful whole, which is especially admirable in the living bird when it expands the wings. When the skin is dried, somewhat of the brilliancy of colour is lost, which is the case with most high-coloured birds. This species occurred not rarely about Calcutta. It dwells in the higher trees, or the summits of bamboos, in the vicinity of water, from which it may perhaps procure small fish, though the chief food seems to consist of insects. The stomach, which is very thin, almost membranous, was always found full of grasshoppers and crickets, without any remains of fish. This bird flies tolerably quick, somewhat like a woodpecker, and betakes itself to a greater distance when disturbed, over the tops of the trees, without regard to the vicinity of water.

It seems to be stationary near Calcutta, and was seen in pairs in April. The voice was not heard. The Bengalese name is *borra matchrenga* or *great kingfisher*. In Latham's 'Gen. Hist.' the name given is *Paula gumma*.

53. *Alcedo capensis*, L. et auct.—Gen. *Halcyon* recentiorum.

Pallide fulvescens, superne sordide cærulea, capite nuchaque cinereis; dorso oblecto nitide cyaneo. Rostrum rubrum, apice recto dorsi carina planata*.

♂ (Serampore d. 25 Febr.). Iris rufo-grisea. Pedes rubri. Gula albidula. Corpus subtus lineolis fuscis, tenuissimis transversim undulatis. Alæ et cauda nitide cinereo-cæruleæ. Long. 14 poll. Ala 150 mill.; pes e talo ad apicem unguis 50; cauda 106; rostrum e fronte 81; altit. 20. Rostrum crassum, compressum dorso rectissimo, sutura adscendente. Remiges 1-3 gradatæ; 4^a ceteris longior. Lingua brevissima (12 millim.), obcordata, basi ut vulgo sagittata extorsum dilatata, apice profunde incisa, laciniis obtuse rotundatis!

I only saw the specimen described, which was found sitting on a post, at a large water-tank. The stomach, which was very thin, was empty, but smelt strongly of fish. The form of the body seemed to be somewhat more slender than in the foregoing species. The perfectly heart-shaped form of the tongue is unusual among birds†.

* *A. leucocephala*, Gm., e Java, huic simillima, differt collo toto, etiam nucha, testaceo, et magnitudine paulo inferiore. An vere dist. sp.?

† The bird above described is the *Halcyon brunniceps* of Jerdon, a name which, if the species be a good one, may be retained in preference to *capensis*, which implies an error of locality. But the Indian birds are so closely allied to the *H. leucocephala* of the Malay countries, which only differs in the crown being pale tawny instead of brown, that I can hardly venture to separate them. The hind neck is testaceous in both species.—H. E. S.

54. *Alcedo rudis*, L. et auct.

Nigra et alba, cauda mediocri, rotundata; capite subcristato; dorso, fasciaque pectoris nigris; supercilliis albis. Rostrum et pedes nigri. Præcedente paullo minor (secundum adnotationem ex individuo vivo d. 23 Martii).

Although this bird occurred during all the time that I remained in Bengal, and in all the places which I explored, much more frequently than the two former species, it happened that I procured no specimen of it. I have not therefore thought fit to give a lengthened description, especially as I have seen none in collections which certainly came from Bengal. According to a note made on the spot, upon one which was seen at a very short distance, once when I was unarmed, the beak seemed to be considerably thicker than in the specimens which I have since seen in collections, and curved upwards as in the previous species. The bird kept near the river and the tanks, partly in trees, partly walking on the ground, and was often seen to hover in the air in one place like the Kestrel over its prey. The tail was commonly carried erect, both when the bird sat still and when it walked, which was not observed in the two preceding kinds. Its note was a shrill *Tick!**

55. *Psittacus torquatus*, Kuhl., Act. Bonn. x. (sec. Brisson).—*Ps. alexandri* var. β , L. *Palæornis cubicularis*, *Wagl. Monogr. Psitt.* p. 45.

Viridis, ala immaculata, torque nuchali tenui roseo. Gula cum stria laterali, torquem limitante, striolaque loræ nigris; rostro sanguineo (adultus).

♂ (d. 10 Febr.). Occiput paullo cæruleo tinctum. Rectrices apice cærulescentes, intus subtusque flavæ. Rostrum totum rubrum. Iris alba. Palpebræ (nec orbita) nudæ. Long. 16 poll. Ala 165 millim. Rectrices mediæ 252, extimæ quadruplo breviores.

Our want of information from India is especially shown by the fact that the existence of this Parroquet was denied in the last treatise on these birds which I am acquainted with, viz. Wagler's excellent monograph in the 'Abhandlungen der Bayerischen Akademie,' Munich, 1835. According to my experience this is the only species of Parroquet which is really common about Cal-

* This Indian species, to which I have given the name *Ceryle varia*, differs from *C. rudis* of S. Europe and Africa in the greater amount of white on the upper parts, but it is absolutely identical in form and structure with *C. rudis*. I have seen the latter species at Smyrna hovering in the mode described by M. Sundevall, but I never saw it *walking*, nor was I aware that any of the *Alcedinidæ* (in which the feet are remarkably short and feeble) ever made any progress upon the ground.—H. E. S.

cutta. It was often seen from February to April, in small flocks of five to seven together. These commonly showed themselves during flight by their well-known scream, which in the open air resembled the note of a Jackdaw, somewhat like *tjeh* ! They were seen both sitting in trees and walking on the ground in quest of food, which consists of rice, fruits, &c. The flight is very strong and steady, often high above the tops of the trees, and they are frequently seen to fly over the town of Calcutta. The screaming of such a small flock flying overhead was the first bird-note which greeted me as I ascended the river to Calcutta. They were recognised by their voice to be parrots, which I should not perhaps have otherwise guessed, as we are accustomed to consider these birds as very poor fliers. They are very wary and shy, so that it is not easy to shoot them. I consequently only got one, the female above-described, but one often sees them in cages, in all the shops and bazaars ; and in the country houses parrots, chained by the foot to a large suspended ring, form a frequent ornament, and this species occurs incomparably the commonest. The price too is lower than that of the other species ; they may be bought for one or at most two rupees. These caged Parroquets commonly flutter and scream so, that in a large bazaar one can hardly hear a person speak ; they often get loose, and one may frequently see them hanging by their chain, unable to help themselves up. They are always taught to speak some words, as was the custom even before Alexander's time. It is remarkable that even the Americans, before the arrival of Europeans, knew how to teach parrots to talk, and Humboldt records (in his ' *Ansichten der Natur* ') a bird of this kind, obtained from one of the small tribes of South America, which spoke a language unknown to the present inhabitants of that country, it having belonged to a tribe which a short time before had been exterminated. The Bengalese name of *P. torquatus* is *Thée* (the *th* pronounced as in English). This is evidently the species which Pliny describes (lib. 10. cap. 42) as coming from India, but the first Parroquet which came to Europe during Alexander's expedition to India was probably *P. alexandri*, which differs from this, in having a red spot on the wings and in its larger size.

56. *Psittacus bengalensis*, Gm., Kuhl.—*Palæornis bengalensis*, Wagl. *Monogr.*

Viridis, capite pallide roseo, postice cærulescente ; torque tenui gulaque nigris. Macula alarum antica obscure rubra.

♂ (d. 12 Febr.) maxilla superior fulva, inferior nigra. Orbita anguste nuda, et iris albæ. Corpus subtile paullo dilutius. Priori minor : ala 137 mill., cauda minus elongata.

This also occurs around Calcutta, but less common than the last species, and I cannot positively assert that I have seen them wild. The specimen described was obtained from a friend. This species is not often seen in a captive state, and it is charged higher than *P. torquatus*. I could learn no other name for it than *kolkottia*, which is much like that of many other species of small birds, e. g. *Lanius superciliosus*.

57. *Psittacus melanorhynchus*.—*Palæornis melanorhynchus*, Wagl.

Viridis, capite rubicundo-cinerascente; mento, macula magna genarum, striaque loræ nigris. Alarum tectrices mediæ flavescentes. Collum antice rubicundum. Rostrum nigrum. An *Ps. pondicerianus*, junior?

Of this species I only saw one specimen, which a Hindoo boatman had sitting in a ring on board his boat. He assured me that he had caught it near Serampore, and a trustworthy well-known Hindoo asserted on the same occasion that he had seen many of these Parrokeets from that country.

Obs. Many other Asiatic, Javanese and Australian Parrokeets were seen in the shops of the natives, or were carried about for sale. Many of them were said to have been caught in Bengal, but as I did not procure any further information on this point, little attention was given to these assertions. *P. sulphureus* often occurred at the price of six or eight rupees, and was generally named from its note, *kakatua*. A dealer wished to persuade me that this species also was caught far in the interior of Bengal, as he understood from my question that I chiefly valued the productions of that country. It was offered me for five rupees.

The large green species with a short tail are called *Hädamon*; among which I recognised the American *P. æstivus*.

Lories, or the red species with short tails, were called *Nuri*, which is probably the original Indian word, from which Europeans have formed the name Lory. Edwards says (under pl. 170) that he borrowed the name Lory from Nieuhoff. According to Scaliger (see Wagl. Monogr. p. 13) the name *Nor* is derived from the island Badang near Java, and means *shining*. These birds are said not to occur near Calcutta, but to be brought thither from the interior. A common name for parrots is *Tottah* or *Tottaw*.

[To be continued.]